By the King.

A Proclamation commanding the Gentry to keepe their Reſidence at their Manſions in the Countrey,

and forbidding them to make their habitations in London, and places adioyning.

THe Kings moſt Excellent MAIESTIE hath obſerued, that of late yeeres a greater number of the Nobilitie and Gentrie, and abler ſort of His people with their Families, haue reſorted to the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, and places adioyning, and there made their reſidence, then in former times, contrary to the auncient vſage of the Engliſh Nation, which hath occaſioned diuers inconueniences; for where by their reſidence and abiding in the ſeuerall Countreys whence their meanes ariſeth, they ſerued the King in ſeuerall places according to their Degrees and Rankes in ayde of the Gouernement, whereby, and by their houſe-keeping in thoſe parts, the Realme was defended, and the meaner ſort of the people were guided, directed and relieued, but by their reſidence in the ſaid Cities and parts adioyning, they haue not imployment, but liue without doing any Seruice to His Maieſtie or His people, a great part of their money and ſubſtance is drawen from the ſeuerall Countreys whence it ariſeth, and is ſpent in the Citie in exceſſe of Apparell prouided from Forraigne parts, to the enriching of other Nations, and vnneceſſary conſumption of a great part of the Treaſure of this Realme, and in other vaine delights and expences, euen to the waſting of their Eſtates, which is not iſſued into the parts from whence it ariſeth, nor are the people of them relieued therewith, or by their Hoſpitalitie, nor yet ſet on worke as they might and would bee, were it not for the abſence of the principall men out of their Countreys, and the exceſſiue vſe of Forraigne Commodities by this occaſion alſo, and of the great number of looſe and idle people that follow them, and liue in, and about the ſaid Cities,

8979 166

53675

the diſorder there groweth ſo great, and the Delinquents become ſo numerous, as thoſe places are not ſo eaſily gouerned by their ordinary Magiſtrates, as in former times, and the ſaid Cities are not onely at exceſſiue charge in relieuing a great number of thoſe idle and looſe people, that grow to Beggery, and become diſeaſed and infirme, but alſo are made more ſubiect to Contagion and Infection, and the prizes of all kindes of victuals both in the ſaid Cities, and in diuers other places from whence thoſe Cities are ſerued, are exceedingly increaſed, and the ſeuerall Countreys vndefended, the poorer ſort are vnrelieued, and not guided or gouerned, as they might bee in caſe thoſe perſons of qualitie and reſpect reſided among them.

His Maieſtie finding thoſe inconueniences to ariſe from hence, and foreſeeing that more will enſue, if timely remedy be not prouided, hath reſolued for the common good of His people, as by His Office He is bound to vſe all good wayes for preuenting of thoſe great euils.

And obſeruing that His Noble Progenitors Kings of this Realme haue vſed, when for the common profit of the Realme it was neceſſary to command their people, aſwell thoſe of the Clergie of all ſorts, as the Laitie, to keepe Reſidence at their dwellings in the ſeuerall parts of this Realme, where for defence, good, and ſafetie thereof, was moſt neceſſary, and to reſtraine their departure, or changing their habitations from thence, vnder diuers paines vpon the contemners of thoſe Commands: Therefore His Maieſtie doth ſtreightly charge and command His Lords both Spirituall and Temporall, the Lieutenants and Deputie Lieutenants of Counties, Juſtices aſſigned for conſeruation of the Peace, Baronets, Knights, Eſquires, and Gentlemen, and all Clerkes hauing Benefices with Cure, or Prebends or Dignities in Cathedrall or Collegiat Churches, and all other His Maieſties Subiects of the ſeuerall parts of the Realme, that haue Manſion-houſes and places of Reſidence in other parts, and are not of His Maieſties Councell, or bound to dayly attendance on His Highneſſe, His deareſt Conſort the Queene, or their Children, That before the end of fourty dayes next after the publiſhing of this Proclamation within His Citie of London, they with their families depart from the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, Suburbes and Liberties thereof, and places adioyning, and reſort to the ſeuerall Counties where they vſually reſided, and there keepe their habitations and hoſpitalitie, attend their ſeruices, and be ready for the defence and guidance of thoſe parts, as their Callings, Degrees and Abilities ſhall extend, vpon ſuch paines as are to be inflicted vpon thoſe that ſhall neglect the publique ſeruice and defence of the Realme in contempt of His Maieſties Royall Command: And that aſwell thoſe hereby commanded to returne to their ſeuerall Countreys, as thoſe which are already there, doe vpon the ſame paines, continue the Reſidence of themſelues, and their families there, and doe their duties and ſeruices as aforeſaid.

Neuertheleſſe, his Maieſtie doeth hereby declare that it is not His purpoſe to reſtraine the neceſſary acceſſe of any His Subiects to the ſaid Cities or either of them, for the following their ſuites or other neceſſary buſineſſe in Terme time, or otherwiſe, ſo as they doe not by pretence thereof remoue their families, but leaue the ſame to continue in the Countrey, and keep their houſes and Hoſpitality, and themſelues returne thither as their buſineſſe may permit them, and to the end the better effect may hence follow, His Maieſty doth charge and command the Lord Maior of the City of London, and the Aldermen of the ſame Citie, & the Juſti-

53675

ces assigned for conseruation of the Peace there, and in the City of Westminster and the Suburbes and Liberties of the same Cities, and in the Counties and places adioyning, and all Constables and Churchwardens in euery Parish within any of those Cities, Suburbes, Liberties, Counties, and places, That euery of them make speciall obseruation of all those that shall bee disobedient to this Our Commaund, and from time to time present their names to some of Our Counsell learned, whom weedoe Commaund to take due examination, or notice of the qualities of their offences, and to cause prosecution to bee had against them in Our Court of Starre-chamber, or in any other Our Courts of Iustice as the case shall require.

And because his Maiesties louing people of the Cities, Suburbes, Liberties, and places aforesaid, are exceedingly burthened and charged, by occasion of this great & vnnecessary concourse of those strangers among them, his Maiestie holdeth it equall and iust, and is well pleased that in their ayde and contributions to his Maiestie, and other common payments, they shall bee charged with respect to the inconuenience that commeth by their residence in those places, and that neuertheless in other parts of the Realme they bee not forborne in any vsuall payment which by Law may be layed on them, and which they were accustomed to beare among their neighbours in the Country when they resided there. And his Maiesty doth further charge and command, that when they or any of them at any Assizes, Sessions, or other place of publike seruice shall make default of their seruice, or due attendance, that the penalties of the Law bee seuerely inflicted on them, without fauour or excuse by reason of their residing with their families at London, or Westminster, or the places adioyning.

Finally, his Maiestie doeth hereby declare that it is his firme resolution to withstand this great and growing euill, by all iust wayes, and by a constant seuerity towards the offenders in that behalfe; For which cause his Maiestie doeth giue this timely warning, that none doe hereafter presume to offend, nor put themselues to vnnecessary charge in prouiding themselues to returne in winter, to the said Cities and places adiacent but that they conforme themselues to this his Royall Commandement, as they tender their duties to his Maiestie, or the good and welfare of their countreyes and themselues.

Giuen at the Court at Greenwich, the twentieth day of Iune, in the eighth yeere of the Reigne of our Soueraigne Lord, CHARLES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings most Excellent MAIESTIE: and by the Assignes of Iohn Bill. M.DC.XXXII.

53675